

greater joy than to spend them with my family. I have been President for seven years and I am not eager to be President again. But if the leaders of the party come to me and say that they are convinced that I am the man the people want and the only man who can be elected, and that they are all for me, I don't see how I could refuse to run. If I do consent, it will be because as President I could accomplish some things that I should like to see accomplished before I die.' This he had said quietly while lying back on his pillows. Then, sitting suddenly erect and clenching his fist, the old fighting Roosevelt reappeared in the declaration: "And by George, if they take me, they will take me without a single reservation or modification of the things I have always stood for!" >

He left the hospital on the morning of Christmas, 1918, and went to his home in Oyster Bay. His physicians were confident of complete recovery and he shared their belief. Writing to his sister, Mrs. W. S. Cowles, on December 28, 1918, he said:

* * It was very dear of you to keep writing me. I feel like a faker, because my troubles are not to be mentioned in the same breath with all you have gone through. Mine has just been a case of severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, and a little sciatica, and while I won't be able to do much for a couple of months, I have every reason to think I shall in the end recover completely. I got out home Christmas morning, so that Edith and I, Ethel and Alice and Archie

and Gracie, had Christmas dinner together.
Eichard and
little Edie are the darlingest small souls you
have⁶ ever seen.
Little Edie is the busiest person imaginable,
and runs
around exactly as if she was a small
mechanical toy."

To his friend Bussell J. Coles, with whom he
had gone
devil fishing a few years earlier and with
whom he had
planned another expedition, he wrote on
January 1, 1919:

"My doctors tell me that in all probability I
shall be able
to go with you on March 1st, There is, of
course, however,
the possibility that my convalescence may be
slower than